

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO  
PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION  
OF THE FLAG OF THE  
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2005*

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I attended the funeral of Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle—a former member of the House who represented the 10th District of Texas for 31 years. As the current representative of the 10th District of Texas, it was my duty to pay homage to Congressman Pickle who gave so much to Texas and his constituents.

In doing so, I was absent for legislative business on the floor, and missed the opportunity to vote in favor of an amendment to the Constitution to prevent the desecration of the flag. As an original cosponsor of this amendment, I would have voted "yes" to preserve the ultimate icon of American values.

Since 1994, there have been 119 instances of reported flag burning or desecration in the United States, but just one occurrence of this should be reason enough to outlaw this heinous act.

All 50 States have enacted resolutions asking Congress to pass a flag protection amendment, and an overwhelming majority of the American people have consistently supported the protection of our flag. Accordingly, the House has passed a flag protection amendment by more than the  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority needed in 5 separate Congresses.

Countless men and women, including my father, who are all heroes, have served under the glory of its stars and bars and died to ensure its spirit, and desecrating our flag is a desecration of their contribution to America. The American flag serves as the world's most recognized symbol of freedom and democracy, and should be given the appropriate respect and protection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 23, 2005*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, I was absent for votes due to important official business in my district. I missed rollcall votes Nos. 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303. Had I been present for votes, I would have voted "yea" on Nos. 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 303 and "nay" on Nos. 293, 299, 300, 301, 302.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPORTS  
FOUNDATION, INC.

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 23, 2005*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the

Sports Foundation, Inc. (SFI), a non-profit organization in the Bronx that will hold its 16th Annual "Claude Buddy Young Dinner" in acknowledgement of community leadership, on June 30th, 2005.

Using sports, education, health and the athletic arena as a model, Sports Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young people by developing innovative programs that foster development of the skills and qualities necessary to produce socially responsible citizens and community leaders. Since 1969, SFI has provided a full spectrum of youth development services and events to urban and at-risk youth, including sports and recreation, counseling and mentoring, educational and career development, and drug prevention and health awareness services free of charge. Through these services SFI has been able to impact over 100,000 young people.

The success that this organization has enjoyed over the past 36 years is due in large part to the great people who make up SFI. If it were not for their tireless efforts to empower the next generation of leaders, SFI would be nothing more than a great idea. I am proud to represent individuals who have the courage and conviction to take action when they see the need for improvement within the community.

Mr. Speaker, on June 30th, SFI will hold its annual dinner in which they pay tribute to individuals within the community who have complemented their efforts in the South Bronx. This year's honorees includes a wide array of influential leaders, including the late Yolanda Garcia, whose good works helped to provide adequate housing and cleaner air for Bronx residents. It is my hope that SFI and all of this year's honorees will continue to serve as a bridge between despair and hope for young people living in the South Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, as they celebrate their 16th Annual "Claude Buddy Young Dinner", I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Sports Foundation Inc. for more than thirty-six years of service to the youth of the South Bronx.

FREEDOM FOR ALEXIS RODRÍGUEZ  
FERNÁNDEZ

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 23, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alexis Rodríguez Fernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Rodríguez Fernández is a member of both the Christian Liberation Movement and the Movement of Cuban Young People for Democracy. Mr. Rodríguez Fernández believes in bringing freedom to an island enslaved by the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Unfortunately, Mr. Rodríguez Fernández has been a constant target of the dictatorship.

According to Amnesty International, in January 2002, Mr. Rodríguez Fernández was attacked and threatened by plain clothes state security agents and later abandoned in a remote area. In March 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Rodríguez Fernández was

arrested. Subsequently, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 15 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Rodríguez Fernández is currently languishing in an infernal cell in the totalitarian gulag. These depraved conditions are truly appalling. The State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people who work for freedom are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions.

Let me be very clear. Mr. Rodríguez Fernández is languishing in these depraved conditions because he believes in freedom. He believes in freedom of religion and human rights for every Cuban citizen. It is intolerable that freedom fighters like Mr. Rodríguez Fernández are locked in gulags 90 miles from our shore because they believe in fundamental human rights.

Mr. Rodríguez Fernández is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is condemnable and unconscionable that any person can be sentenced to 15 years in the grotesquely inhuman quarters of Castro's gulag for a belief in democracy. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alexis Rodríguez Fernández and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

2005 ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF  
HONOR AWARDS CEREMONY

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 23, 2005*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the 2005 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO)—an umbrella group of more than 250 organizations that spans the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions—the Ellis Island Medal of Honor commemorates and recognizes Americans of all ethnic backgrounds who have made significant contributions to our society. These medals have been aptly named for Ellis Island, as in so many ways Ellis Island is an enduring symbol of the immigrant roots and diversity that characterize our great Nation.

America has always been a haven for legal immigrants from all over the world who come to our shores with one simple dream; forging a new life in a land of opportunity, liberty, and freedom—freedom from religious, economic, political or ethnic persecution. When the immigrant station at Ellis Island, New York, opened on January 1, 1892, it admitted 700 immigrants into the United States on just its first day of operation. By the time the center closed in 1954, 17-million immigrants had passed through its doors. The Ellis Island administration and staff, on average, processed up to 5,009 people per day. Many of these

newcomers spoke little English, hardly had any money, and arrived with only the clothes on their backs. Despite those challenges, all were willing to risk their lives in exchange for the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their families.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor was created in 1986 to honor those individuals who—through their own perseverance, sacrifice and success—continue to help keep America at the forefront of science, business, sports, entertainment, health care research, and myriad of other important issues. Representing a rainbow of ethnic backgrounds the 2005 recipients received their awards on May 14, 2005, in the shadow of the historic Great Hall, where the first footsteps towards a new life were taken by the millions of immigrants who entered the U.S. in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

NECO Co-chairman Lee Iacocca, paying tribute to NECO's Founder and Chairman, William Denis Fugazy, said: "Bill's most enduring legacy is the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations and the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. He has been the driving force behind NECO since its inception. Under the NECO banner he has led the fight against intolerance and hate, and brought together disparate groups to work together and to celebrate the gifts that each ethnic group brings to keep America the land of freedom and opportunity for all. His life is testament to what one person with a big heart and boundless energy can accomplish."

Nasser J. Kazeminy, Chairman of NECO's Executive Committee, said that the 2005 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients have enriched this country and have become role models for future generations. He noted that a posthumous Medal was given to Sergeant Christian P. Engeldrum, U.S. Army National Guard, who was killed in Iraq last November. Engeldrum, he said, was a heroic New York City firefighter, and also served in the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm. He was the first New York City employee to be killed in Iraq. His third child, a daughter, was born in June 2005.

Since 1986, approximately 1,700 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, which continue to pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. In addition, NECO awards one International Ellis Island Medal of Honor each year. This year's international honoree was Richard Platt, Chairman of Visy Industries, Australia.

Mr. Speaker, the 2005 Ellis Island recipients are without doubt a remarkable collection of individuals who have distinguished themselves as outstanding human beings and citizens of the United States. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America.

I once again commend NECO and its Chairman, my good friend William Denis Fugazy, for honoring the accomplishments of these outstanding individuals and their tireless efforts to foster dialogue, build bridges between different ethnic groups, and promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation. I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all the 2005 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients, and I would ask that the

names of all of this year's recipients be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

#### 2005 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Abu S. Alam M.D. P.A., Bangladesh; George Atanasoski, Vice President, Microflex, Inc., Macedonian; Nishan Atinjian, President, Fresh Pond Mall Ltd Partnership, Armenian; Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, Counsel & Sr. Advisor Global Strategies, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, Irish; Avi Barbasch M.D., New York Oncology, Czech/Polish/Israeli; Joseph L. Basralian Esq., Managing Partner, Winne, Banta, Hetherington, Basralian & Kahn P.C., Armenian; Paul P. Bernstein, Board Member, Seeds of Peace, Russian; Nicholas A. Buoniconti, Founder, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, Italian; Terry Burman, Chairman & CEO, Sterling Jewelers, Inc., Russian/Polish; Hon. Elaine L. Chao, Secretary of Labor, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Chinese; Dr. James S.C. Chao, Chairman, Foremost Group, Chinese; Yeoung Bae Choi, Chairman, The Korean American Association of Flushing, Korean; Dr. Parveen Chopra, Chairperson, Comm. Of Human Rights—Nassau County NY, Asian Indian; Joseph A. Cimino M.D., Professor & Chairman, Community & Preventive Medicine, Italian; Vahakn N. Dadrian, Director of Research, Zoryan Institute, Armenian; Thomas E. Dreesen, Comedian, Italian/Irish; Victor J. Dzau, MD, Chancellor for Health Affairs, Duke University Medical Center, Chinese/Canadian; I. Steven Edelson, Managing Member, Mercantile, Russian/Polish; Christian Engeldrum (Posthumously), Sgt US Army, NYC Firefighter/Ladder 61; Andrew Evangelatos, Attorney at Law, Hellenic; Dr. Haifa Fakhouri, President & CEO, Arab American & Chaldean Council, Jordanian; Stefan J. Fedor, Service Delivery Executive, Cisco Systems, Inc., Czech/Hungarian; Anthony C. Ferreri, President & CEO, Staten Island University Hospital, Italian; Dr. Homayoun Firouztash, Partner, Centurion Holdings, LLC, Iranian; John W. Galanis, Esq., Chairman, Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson, Hellenic; Judge John Gale, State of Florida, Italian; Robert C. Gallo, M.D., Director, Institute of Human Virology, Italian; Rickey M. Gelb, President, Gelb Enterprises, Austrian/Russian; Lola Nashashibi Grace, Philanthropist, Lebanese/Palestinian; Edgar Hagopian, Chairman, Hagopian Family of Companies, Armenian; Alexander W. Harris, CTC, Chairman, General Tours, Inc., Polish; Jay Hershenson, Vice Chancellor, CUNY, Polish; Wilhelmina Holliday, Commissioner (Ret), NYPD-MVDP, African American; Soung Eun Hong, President/CEO, Rainer Group of Atlantic, USA, Korean; Richard C. Iannuzzi, Vice President, NYSUT, Italian; Muta M. Issa, MD, MBA, Assoc. Prof./Chief of Urology, Emory Univ School of Med/Atlanta; VA Med Ctr, Iraqi; BG Jimmie C. Jackson, Jr., Cmdr 305th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire Air Force Base, Irish/Mexican; Eppaminondas G. Johnson, Founder, Eppie's Race, Director Univ of Nevada-Reno Foundation, Hellenic; Ranya Caren Kelly, Founder/Exec. Director, The Redistribution Center Inc., English/German; Cecile Keshishian, President (Ret), NH Medical Society Auxiliary, Lebanese; Won Ho Kim, President, Warner, Inc., So. Korean; Yohyun Kim, President, Ace Printing & Publishing, Korean; Theodore A. Laliotis, President, Laliotis & Associates, Hellenic; Dr. Henry C. Lee, Chief Emeritus, CT Forensic Science Laboratory, Chinese; Susan Levit M.D., F.A.C.P., President & Medical Director, Levit Medical Arts Pavilion, Russian/Israeli; Boris Lipkin, President & CEO, Therma-Wave, Ukrainian; Joseph Macnow, Executive VP & CFO,

Vornado Realty Trust, Russian/Polish; LTG Robert Magnus, Deputy Commandant, US Marine Corps, English/Polish; Ranjan Manoranjan, Chairman & CFO, 3SG Corporation, Sri Lanka; Aris Mardrossian, President, Technology Patents LLC, Armenian; Penny Marshall, Director & Producer, Italian/German/Welsh; Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, Former Ambassador, Chairman, Board of Gov. / American Red Cross, President, Pace Communications, Scottish/Irish; Aaron David Miller, President, Seeds of Peace, Russian/Polish; Benjamin E. Montoya, CEO, Smart Systems Technologies, Inc., Mexican; Edward D. Mullins, President, NYPD Sergeants Benevolent Association, Irish/Spanish; John V. Murphy, Chairman President & CEO, Oppenheimer Funds Inc., Irish; Francesco Musorrafti, Chairman & CEO, Engineering & Professional Serv. Inc., Italian; Firouz M. Naderi, Associate Director, Programs, Project Formulation & Strategy, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Iranian; John S. Najarian, MD, Professor of Surgery, University of Minnesota, Armenian; John M. Nasseff, Community Leader & Philanthropist, Lebanese; Maria Neira, Vice President, NYSUT, Puerto Rican; Peter Nikiteas, Community Leader, Hellenic; James J. O'Connor, Chairman & CEO (Ret), UNICOM Corp & Commonwealth Edison, Irish; Michael D. O'Halloran, Chairman & CEO, Aon Corporation, Irish; Harris J. Pappas, President, Pappas Restaurant, Inc., Hellenic; Sudhir Parikh M.D., Center for Asthma and Allergies, Asian Indian; Peter P. Parthenis, CEO, Grecian Delight Foods, Inc., Hellenic; Martin R. Pollner, Senior Partner, Loeb & Loeb LLP, Polish/Hungarian; Rev. Peter A. Popaj, Our Lady of Shkobra RC Church, Albanian; Richard Pratt, AC, International Recipient, President, Visey Communications, Polish; Cassandra L. Romas, Managing Director, Bours Properties, LLC, Hellenic; Joseph R. Rosetti, President, Safir Rosetti, Italian; BG Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Commandant, US Military Academy at West Point, Italian; Stephen M. Schuck, Chairman, The Schuck Corp., Russian/German; H.R. Shah, Chairman & CEO, TV Asia & Krauszer's, Asian Indian; M. Morris Shirazipour, CEO, Aero Toy Store, Israeli/Iranian/Canadian; Barbara Simmons, Department of Veterans Affairs, African American; Barry Ivan Slotnick, Attorney at Law, Buchanan Ingersoll PC, Polish; Edward M. Snider, Chairman, Comcast-Spectacor, Russian/Polish; Mona So, Chairperson, Chinese Import Association of America, Chinese; Mercedes H. Spotts, Esq., Polish; Thomas Stankovich, Senior VP & CFO, MP Biomedicals, Yugoslavian; John L. Starks, Founder & President, The John Starks Foundation, American Indian; Gwynn T. Swinson, Secretary of Administration, NC Dept. of Administration, African/Caribbean/European; Abdul Jamil Tajik, M.D., Cardiovascular Diseases & Internal Medicine—Mayo Clinic, Pakistani; Meilin Tan, Founder & President, Small Business Owners of Greater New York, Chinese; James Thomas, President & CPA, Thomas Auto Motor Group, Hellenic; George Tomov, President, Folk Dance Foundation, Macedonian Arts Council, Macedonian; Angelo Vivolo, Community Leader, Italian; Dionysios Vlachos, President, Allboro Waterproofing Corp., Hellenic; Frank Volpicella, Vice President, United Federation of Teachers, Italian; Robert Weisberg, Deputy Chief of Mission, American Embassy Helsinki, Russian/Rumanian/ Austrian; Thomas V. Whelan, Chairman & CEO, Concepts International, Irish; Capt. Glenn A. Wiltshire, Cmdr. of Coast Guard Activities NY, United States Coast Guard, English/Polish; James B. Zafiros, Vice President (Ret), NBC Television, Hellenic/Turkish; Larry A.

Zavadi, President & CEO, American Solutions For Business, Czech/German.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE J.J. PICKLE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man whose presence in this chamber raised the level of civility and decency and lifted the hearts of each and every one of us. Yesterday, with a number of my colleagues, I attended the funeral services of Representative J.J. "Jake" Pickle of Texas. This was a man whose gregarious spirit and good humor over 31 years was a welcomed addition to the proceedings of the chamber, and whose passion and determination to achieve a better life for all Americans were evident in his every day good will and efforts.

Jake was a natural politician because he loved to serve the people and realized that serving the people meant knowing them. He went out of his way to greet and meet individuals who were constituents, who were Americans, and who were simply human. In formal meetings or walks to this chamber or sitting around the office, Jake always had a welcoming and calming smile accompanied by a hearty greeting and oftentimes an affectionate bear hug. He was a lightening rod of energy and enthusiasm and infused that passion and concern into everyone he came in contact with.

That passion and dedication to the public carried over into his work in this chamber. I had the honor to work with Jake on the Ways and Means Committee and I know he was committed to helping the public in every way possible. He was not blinded by partisanship but believed in the right ideals and direction for this country. In the 1980s, as chair of the Social Security Subcommittee, he worked across party lines to achieve reforms in the system that would guarantee the program for future generations. He built alliances with members of different ideologies on issues of importance to him, Austin, Texas, and the American public.

His bonds and connection to public service were rooted in principle and a desire to do what was right. He often stated to me his worry in 1964 over the Civil Rights Act. He knew that legislation to secure rights that had been long denied to African Americans was overdue and right; yet he also knew of the strong opposition to civil rights legislation in his congressional district and Texas. He took the unprecedented and dangerous (for a Texan) step of supporting that legislation, which has moved the country so far in terms of race relations. He knew the importance of addressing the issue of race in America and ensuring that all Americans were treated equally in this country. While he received President Lyndon Johnson's personal appreciation for that action, he was concerned that he would not be returned to office. Fortunately, the people of Austin saw the greatness of this man and reelected him fifteen times.

There was clearly something superb about the Gentleman from Texas. He was willing to work for and do the work of the people. His

smiling face, his generous handshakes, and his willingness to put his neck on the line for the right cause were a welcomed part of his role in the House of Representatives. I miss working with Gentleman Jake as he would readily discuss and debate the issue of the day with anyone and with a hearty smile on his face.

There were several well-written obituaries earlier this week after Jake Pickle's death which captured much of the spirit and essence of this fine public servant. The one I found most meaningful is the one I submit for the RECORD today to share with my colleagues. It is an editorial from Jake's home town newspaper, the Austin American Statesman, paying him as high a compliment as any elected official can achieve, asserting that it was "A Privilege to be Served by Pickle."

A PRIVILEGE TO BE SERVED BY PICKLE

JUNE 19, 2005—Elected officeholders rightly talk about the privilege of serving the people. Occasionally, though, an officeholder comes along so complete in dedication, energy and humanity that the community is privileged to have his service. And having Jake Pickle for a congressman for 31 years proved just such a privilege for Central Texas.

Jake—anyone could call him Jake; that was fine by him—always enjoyed being the center of attention. He was a terrific storyteller, in part because he so obviously loved telling a story. Audiences, in turn, couldn't help but enjoy and start laughing at his stories, and soon he was laughing at himself and their reaction, too.

Another reason people liked him was that he so obviously relished being with people. He was a born politician, someone who really did get a charge out of meeting, being with and helping people. And he found in public office a perfect way to live out an honorable and useful life: Help others, and bask in the thanks.

But Pickle was far more than the glad-handing, back-slapping pal, as good as he was at that. He deeply believed that government could do things to help and protect ordinary people, and that's how he used his office in Congress. As he rose in seniority in Congress and the influential House Ways and Means Committee, he became chairman of its Social Security subcommittee, which in the early 1980s faced the same kind of fiscal problems it does today.

Here's an excerpt from the 1992 edition of the American Almanac of American Politics describing Pickle:

"While other Democrats went out and demagogued the Social Security issue on the campaign trail, Pickle pointed out its problems and worked hard as the architect of the Social Security rescue of 1983, when benefits were in effect cut by raising the normal retirement age over the years to 67 in the next century. He was a serious player on tax reform and on trade; he has come forward with well thought out amendments to help rural hospitals, to strengthen the Caribbean Basin Initiative and to tax foreign subsidiaries. Recently he has been looking closely, and to their discomfort, at government sponsored enterprises like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, not because they seem to be in trouble now, but because he wants to avoid huge unanticipated obligations of the sort generated by federal deposit insurance of savings and loans."

If only he were in Congress today!

Pickle worked hard for Central Texas, not just in committee meetings and on the floor of the House of Representatives, but by coming home and asking us, repeatedly, what we

wanted him to do. He kept doing it so well that we kept sending him back, until he decided it was time for someone younger to fight the good fights.

It was a privilege to have him represent us, and we're sorry he won't be telling us any more good stories.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. MCCAUL of FLorida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I attended the funeral of Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle—a former Member of the House who represented the 10th District of Texas for 31 years. As the current representative of the 10th District of Texas, it was my duty to pay homage to Congressman Pickle who gave so much to Texas and his constituents.

If I were able to vote on yesterday's considered measures, I would have voted in favor of an amendment that I offered to the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. This fiscally conservative, commonsense amendment would have addressed the excess printing and paper that is generated by the GPO, and directed those funds to a far more worthy recipient—the Capitol Police. I thank Congressman PATRICK MCHENRY for his support of my amendment, and for acting as my designee during the debate.

I also would have voted "yes" on a Constitutional Amendment banning the desecration of the American Flag—legislation of which I am an original cosponsor.

For the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, I would have voted: "no" on the Baird amendment, "no" on the Davis amendment, "no" on the Hefley amendment, "no" on the motion to recommit, and "yes" on passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House on Monday, June 20, 2005 so that I could testify before the BRAC Commission regional hearing in St. Louis, MO, on behalf of Ft. Knox, an Army installation in my district designated for significant realignment. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

House amendment 328, claiming religious proselytizing at the Air Force Academy, "no."

House amendment 330, prohibiting funds for activities in Uzbekistan, "no."

House amendment 331, prohibiting military action against Syria, Iran, N. Korea without Congress authority, "no."

House amendment 333, prohibiting funds for carrying out sections of the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program Act, "no."

H.R. 2863, on final passage of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2006, "yea."